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EH-990  
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COMMENTS

TO	ROOM NO.	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3020  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

FOR COORDINATION WITH FBI

9:11  
Herman: Do you  
know what prompted  
this interview? LG

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17.	RID/FI	FILE TITLE
TRACE REQUEST	ABSTRACT INDEX	FILE NUMBER (PRIMARY CODE) C
DATE MICROFILMED	DOCUMENT DATE 29 Aug 69	DOCUMENT NUMBER OBC 61011 FBI

SECRET

Federal Bureau of Investigation

SEP 11 1969

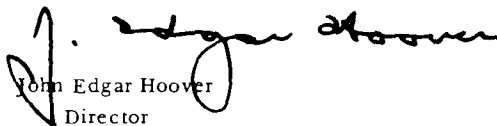
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D. C. 20505

ATTENTION: Deputy Director, Plans

Dear Sir:

- ☒ 1. For your information, I am enclosing communications which may be of interest to you.
- ☐ 2. It will be appreciated if you will have the investigation conducted as requested in the enclosed memorandum and furnish the results.
- ☐ 3. No further investigation is contemplated with regard to this matter.
- ☐ 4. You will be advised of the pertinent developments in connection with this inquiry.
- ☐ 5. Please note change in caption of this case.
- ☐ 6. Status of case: ☐ Completed ☐ Incomplete

Very truly yours,

  
John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Enc.

(Upon removal of classified enclosures, if any,  
this transmittal form becomes UNCLASSIFIED.)

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In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

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5P

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York  
August 29, 1969

Unknown Subject; KGB Agent of Latvian  
Origin Operating in the United States  
in 1952

mentioned in FBI interview of Heinrichs W.  
Bagatais concerning Latvian newspaper  
linking subj to AIS.

On August 20, 1969, Heinrichs W. Bagatais was interviewed by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) concerning articles appearing in the Russian Latvian language newspaper "Dzimtenes Balss" in the mid-1950's, indicating that American Intelligence Service (AIS) agents Nikolajs Balodis, Edvins Ozolins, Alfreds Riekstins, Leonids Zarins and Leonids Brombergs had been captured by the Soviets after they had been air-dropped into the Latvian sector of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) for intelligence purposes. This is hereinafter referred to as the mission. Bagatais advised that he recalls reading some newspaper articles referring to the mission in which Brombergs and others were involved, but does not recall Balodis' name being mentioned. Of the above-mentioned group, Bagatais stated that he was acquainted with only Nikolajs Balodis and Leonids Brombergs, having met them at Camp Hochfeld Displaced Persons Camp, Augsburg, Germany.

Bagatais explained that while he was fighting in the Latvian Legion of the German Army during World War II, he was captured by the Russian Army and became a prisoner of war. At the end of World War II he was released and returned to Germany due to the fact that he was a liability

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for the Russians, having lost his left arm in the war. This in addition to the fact that the Russians believed him to be of German nationality and not Latvian, enabled him to be freed and returned to Germany.

Bagatais related that he subsequently stayed in a number of displaced persons camps located at Eichstaett, Ansbach, Bad Aibling, Neuburg, New Ulm, and Augsburg, while attempting to be emigrated to some foreign country. At one time he was considered for emigration to Australia, but was turned down due to the loss of his left arm. During this period, Bagatais stated that he was involved in various odd jobs in order to survive, as were most of the other displaced persons, who found themselves without home, family and country. He said that everywhere he went it seemed that someone thought he was involved with Soviet Intelligence. He said that this was due to the fact that as a Latvian he was freed by the Soviets after World War II and returned to Germany. He denied any intelligence association or affiliation with the Soviets, adding that he has great hate for them for what they did to him, the Latvian people, and Latvia itself.

Continuing, Bagatais related that he actually stayed at Camp Hochfeld for only about six months, having arrived there about the middle of 1951. Shortly after arriving he became reacquainted with one Roberts Ancans, whom he had previously met at a displaced persons camp located at Neuburg, Germany, when Ancans was an instructor there. He pointed out that he and Ancans first became acquainted due to the fact that the two of them looked so much alike that they appeared to be twins. Ancans and he came from the same town, Balvi, Latvia, although he did not know him then as he was a few years older. Bagatais said Ancans had formerly attended school with his, Bagatais', sister, in Balvi.

Bagatais readily admitted that while he was at Camp Hochfeld, he became aware of the planned mission to

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infiltrate men of Latvian nationality into Russian occupied Latvia; having learned of this through Ancans when Ancans tried to recruit him into the operation. He pointed out that he refused to participate in the mission due to his physical disability, in addition to the fact that his hardships experienced during his Russian prisoner of war days remained vividly in his mind, and he did not want to give them a chance to capture him again.

Bagatais stated that it was at this time also that he met Nikolajs Balodis and Leonids Brombergs. He saw Brombergs on about two occasions when he visited the store to buy things, and did not know him well at all. He met Balodis through Ancans and learned that Balodis had been recruited into the mission, Balodis having told him of this personally.

Bagatais related that Balodis did a lot of heavy drinking at this time and many times spoke of his being involved in the mission. He said Balodis was very indiscreet in talking about the mission, and he, Bagatais, had warned him that he should not talk about the mission as it would jeopardize its success. He stated that he is sure that details concerning the operation were known by many unauthorized persons at Camp Hochfeld, one of whom might have passed it on to the Soviets.

Bagatais further advised that it was no great surprise to him when he read about the Russian capture of the above-mentioned group. He felt it had little chance of success due to the fact that too many unauthorized people were aware of it. He said it was handled all wrong.

Bagatais explained that he did not know whether Balodis had participated in the mission. He did not recall seeing his name in the newspaper articles and he had always thought that Balodis was completely removed from the mission because of his excessive drinking and indiscreet talk, and transferred to some other location to prevent him from jeopardizing the mission.

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Bagatais further related that he, Bagatais, was employed at a store at Camp Hochfeld which was operated by Janis and Juris Klaustins, both of whom emigrated to the United States (US) and now live in the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, area. Bagatais said that the Klaustins knew of the mission. He pointed out that Balodis spent a great deal of time hanging around the store bumming food and money to buy liquor, while talking with people who visited the store. Bagatais said he heard Balodis speak of the mission as if he had already been captured and killed. It appeared to Bagatais that Balodis looked upon the mission as a way to commit suicide.

Bagatais went on to say that during this time Balodis was living with a woman in the area whose name he does not recall; however, he believes that George Apelis, who lives in Brooklyn, New York, was acquainted with her. He said that this woman had a child by Balodis. He believes that this child was later brought to the US by Austra Ledacis, Balodis' sister, after the death of its mother. Austra and her husband, Arvids, now reside in Babylon, New York. He said that Austra had great hate for her brother for some unknown reason. He recalls her making the statement that she wished Balodis was dead. *Li Jaars*

Bagatais reiterated that many unauthorized people knew about the mission, including the Klaustins and Balodis' sister, mentioned above, and Vilis Jannums who resides in the New York City area.

Bagatais also stated that he emigrated from Camp Hochfeld to the US, arriving at New York, New York, on December 15, 1951, aboard the "General R.A. Blatchford". He obtained an apartment at 1722 Vyse Avenue, Bronx, New York, and shortly thereafter began working at Roux Laboratories, 1841 Park Avenue, New York, New York, as a shipping clerk, which job he kept for ten years. During this time he became

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acquainted with many Latvian emigres residing in the New York City area. He also joined the "Daugavos Vēstis", a Latvian veterans organization, and later became its chairman. He pointed out that he presently resides at 412 Cathedral Parkway, Apt. 122, New York, New York, and is employed in the Shipping Department at International Flavors and Fragrances, Inc., 521 West 57th Street, New York, New York. He added, in conclusion, that he would assist the United States Government in any manner possible in the future.

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